

DATA GEMS: How to Navigate data.census.gov

Transcript

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Hi, my name is Tyson Weister, in today's census data gem I'll show you how to navigate data.census.gov. The new site to access Census Bureau data. With so many options available to start your search on the site, you may be wondering "How do I get started?". Today, I'm going to show you my favorite trick, let's check it out.

From the landing page of data.census.gov, there are 2 entry points to get started with your search. A single search bar and the advanced search. I like to give the single search bar a try, it often gives me a quick and easy answer to my question. To get started, we're going to pull up data for commuting in Orange County, California and then click where it says, "search or press enter". Right here, up at the top of our "all results page" we can see one of the featured statistics from the Census Bureau on this topic, average travel time to work is 28.1 minutes. Next to the all tab where it says tables, we can dig much deeper into the breadth of Census Bureau data on this topic. You can see on the left-hand side there are 151 different tables that we can scroll through and click in between to get a more detailed picture of commuting in Orange County. As a quick example from the very first table S0801; we can see the total number of workers in Orange County, California and the percentage break outs of the different modes of transportation they use to get to work.

An alternative way about going through this search, is clicking on the US Census Bureau logo in the upper left. I'll show you the alternative path using the advanced search. This is a step by step, approach where you go through a series of filters and make clicks. Where you're able to see the comprehensive set of options that are available to you, rather than typing them out on your own. So, to select commuting and Orange County, we'll start with whatever is most important. I'm going to click on geography, then click where it says county, it will prompt me for the state. So, after selecting California, I'll get a list of all the counties in California. Start typing in Orange and select the check box that says Orange County, California. As soon as I'd selected that, on the bottom of the screen we see the selected filters Orange County, California.

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The next thing is selecting the topic on the left-hand side. Again, clicking topics, employment, and then we see the check box here for commuting. With both of those items selected in the bottom right hand side, click search. In here we get to access our tables on data.census.gov as we had gone about through the single search method earlier. In general, like using single search but if it's taking more than thirty seconds to a minute to find your quick results, go ahead and try giving the advanced search a shot.

Some complex topics and geographies are only available through the advanced search. Things like detailed population groups, or complex geographies, like census tracts for urban rural.

I hope you enjoyed these tricks on navigating data.census.gov. For more videos like this, please visit census.gov/academy and subscribe. Thank you!